

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

SAJ-01 OES-03 SAM-01 CU-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 /067 W

----- 089254

R 100349Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3776

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CH

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL SETS DICTATORSHIP AS KEY REGIME CONCERN

REF: HONG KONG 1464

1. ONE YEAR AND A WEEK AFTER LAST YEAR'S CALL FOR PEOPLE'S
WAR INITIATED AND LED BY CHAIRMAN MAO, THRDO RST EDITORIAL

PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP FORMED IN PEKING LAST
MONTH EXPLICITLY GAVELS FOR ORDER AND DISCIPLINE. THE
PRONOUNCEMENT IN PEOPLE'S DAILY FEBRUARY 9 ALSO INVOKES MAO'S
AUTHORITY INMPCUFPORT OF THE TURNABOUT, QUOTING HIM AS RECENTLY
GIVING AN IMPORTANT INSTRUCTION ON THE NEED TO CLEARLY UNDER-
STAND THE QUESTION OF DICTATORSHIP.

2. THE EDITORIAL WARNS THAT SOME COMRADES HAVE "MUDDLED IDEAS
OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER" ON THE QUESTION, BUT STOPS SHORT OF
SIGNALING HARSH MEASURES TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION. AS

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HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE MEDIA BUILDUP TO THIS CALL FOR

DISCIPLINE (REFTEL), THE APPROACH OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP SEEMS FIRM BUT NOT VINDICTIVE, AND WE WOULD GUESS THAT UNRULY ELEMENTS ARE BEING OFFERED AN OPTION TO FALL IN LINE VOLUNTARILY.

3. THE EDITORIAL ONLY IN PASSING ALLUDES TO THE TASK OF DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY IN LEAP FORWARD TERMS OF "GREATER, FASTER, BETTER AND MORE ECONOMICAL," AND IT IS POSSIBLE THE NEW LEAP CAMPAIGN, WHICH IS STILL TALKED ABOUT IN THE PROVINCES AS A COMING EVENT, HAS BEEN DELAYED IN ORDER TO DEAL FIRST WITH ESTABLISHING PUBLIC ORDER.

4. COMMENT: SERIOUS DISORDER AMONG FACTIONS, LABOR, AND YOUTH WAS STIRRED UP LAST YEAR BY THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT AND THE AGITATION OF THE MOVEMENT'S INSTIGATORS. IT WAS CLEAR EVEN BEFORE THE CONGRESS LAST MONTH THAT THIS PROBLEM WAS URGENT (HONG KONG 0671). IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT SIMPLY CALLING FOR ORDER, HOWEVER, EVEN WITH MAO'S ENDORSEMENT, IS GOING TO BE EFFECTIVE. MAO WAS APPARENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH DOCUMENT 26 WHEN IT CALLED FOR ORDER BACK IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR AND THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO QUIET THINGS DOWN. MATERIAL INCENTIVES ARE WHAT IS WANTED, BUT THESE MAY BE PHYSICALLY AS WELL AS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE RIGHT AWAY. REPRESSIVE MEASURES WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE USED. CROSS

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